

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 13-17 have been examined and rejected on prior art grounds.

I. Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the SB/08 Form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of October 12, 2004, indicating that the documents cited therein have been considered. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings filed on October 12, 2004 and for acknowledging the foreign priority claim and receipt of the priority document.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Japanese Publ. Appl. No. 2002-228805 to Miyagawa et al. (hereinafter “Miyagawa”)

Claims 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Miyagawa. Applicant submits that claims 13-17 are patentable over the cited reference. For example, claims 13 and 16 recite, *inter alia*, “wherein the resin composition has been cured by irradiating ultraviolet rays to the resin composition from more than one side of the resin composition.” Miyagawa merely teaches that the resin layer may be exposed to ultraviolet rays from the base material side or the mold side, but that the resin layer can not be exposed to ultraviolet rays from both sides simultaneously. *See* Miyagawa at Figure 5 and paragraph [0032]. In other words, not only does Miyagawa fail to teach exposure of the resin composition

from more than one side, the reference expressly teaches away from doing so to avoid the risk of stiffening the resin constituent.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 13 and 16 are patentable over Miyagawa for at least the foregoing reason. Since claims 14 and 15 depend upon claim 13, and claim 17 depends upon claim 16, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over the cited reference at least by virtue of their respective dependency.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Japanese Patent 63-110410 to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter “Hashimoto”)

Claims 13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hashimoto. Since Hashimoto fails to cure the deficient teachings of Miyagawa with regard to claims 13 and 16 discussed above, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over Hashimoto for the reasons discussed above with respect to Miyagawa.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,400,182 to Chiba (hereinafter “Chiba”)

Claims 13, 15, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chiba. Since Chiba fails to cure the deficient teachings of Miyagawa with regard to claims 13, 15 and 16 discussed above, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable over Chiba for the reasons discussed above with respect to Miyagawa.

With regard to claim 15, the Examiner contends that Chiba’s resin layer having a central thickness of 100 μm and a maximum thickness of 600 μm corresponds to the claimed ratio of

maximum thickness to minimum thickness falling between 4 and 20. However, since claim 15 depends upon claim 14, claim 15 also contains the feature that the maximum resin layer thickness fall within a range of 1mm to 10mm. The Examiner appears to have ignored this feature, since the maximum thickness of 600 μ m taught by Chiba clearly falls outside the claimed range of 1mm to 10mm. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 15 is patentable over Chiba at least for the foregoing reason, as well as by virtue of its dependency from claim 13.

V. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) over U.S. Patent Appl. Publ. 2003/0099783 to Karita (hereinafter “Karita”)

Claims 13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by Karita. Applicant submits that Karita suffers from the same deficiencies as Miyagawa, as discussed above. Specifically, Karita merely teaches irradiation of a resin fluid with ultraviolet rays on one side of the resin fluid. *See* Karita at Figures 4 and 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 13 and 16 are patentable over the Karita for at least the foregoing reason.

VI. Conclusion

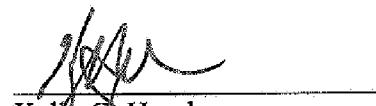
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/510,768

Attorney Docket No.: Q84023

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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